



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

March 10, 2016

The Honorable Peter Welch
U.S. House of Representatives
2303 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Welch:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to ensure the full disclosure of sponsors of political advertisements. Your views are very important, and I appreciate your sharing them with me.

As your letter indicates, the current definition of "editorial control" is the sponsoring organization. The Commission has yet to conduct a proceeding to review the definition. I understand you believe we should conduct such a proceeding, and I respect your suggestion.

Since becoming Chairman of the Commission, I have focused on expanding the public's access to information about political advertising. For example, by broadening the universe of entities required to disclose the sponsoring organization of political advertising in the Commission's online public inspection file database. As of July 2014, television broadcasters are required to identify an advertisement's sponsor. Further, on January 28, 2016, the Commission adopted rules to expand the online file requirements to include cable operators, satellite TV providers, broadcast radio licensees, and satellite radio licensees.

These new rules expand the reporting under the current "editorial control" definition and will shine more sunlight on political and issue advertising. I appreciate fully that you believe the Commission should go farther.

Thank you for sharing your views with us. The fact that 170 members of congress is a significant statement, the significance of which is not lost.

Sincerely,

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Tom Wheeler



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

March 10, 2016

The Honorable Bonnie Watson Coleman
U.S. House of Representatives
126 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Watson Coleman:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to ensure the full disclosure of sponsors of political advertisements. Your views are very important, and I appreciate your sharing them with me.

As your letter indicates, the current definition of "editorial control" is the sponsoring organization. The Commission has yet to conduct a proceeding to review the definition. I understand you believe we should conduct such a proceeding, and I respect your suggestion.

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Tom Wheeler



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WASHINGTON

March 10, 2016

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz
U.S. House of Representatives
1114 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Wasserman Schultz:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to ensure the full disclosure of sponsors of political advertisements. Your views are very important, and I appreciate your sharing them with me.

As your letter indicates, the current definition of "editorial control" is the sponsoring organization. The Commission has yet to conduct a proceeding to review the definition. I understand you believe we should conduct such a proceeding, and I respect your suggestion.

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March 10, 2016

The Honorable Tim Walz
U.S. House of Representatives
1034 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Walz:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to ensure the full disclosure of sponsors of political advertisements. Your views are very important, and I appreciate your sharing them with me.

As your letter indicates, the current definition of "editorial control" is the sponsoring organization. The Commission has yet to conduct a proceeding to review the definition. I understand you believe we should conduct such a proceeding, and I respect your suggestion.

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March 10, 2016

The Honorable Nydia M. Velazquez
U.S. House of Representatives
2302 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Velazquez:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to ensure the full disclosure of sponsors of political advertisements. Your views are very important, and I appreciate your sharing them with me.

As your letter indicates, the current definition of "editorial control" is the sponsoring organization. The Commission has yet to conduct a proceeding to review the definition. I understand you believe we should conduct such a proceeding, and I respect your suggestion.

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March 10, 2016

The Honorable Filemon Vela
U.S. House of Representatives
437 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Vela:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to ensure the full disclosure of sponsors of political advertisements. Your views are very important, and I appreciate your sharing them with me.

As your letter indicates, the current definition of "editorial control" is the sponsoring organization. The Commission has yet to conduct a proceeding to review the definition. I understand you believe we should conduct such a proceeding, and I respect your suggestion.

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March 10, 2016

The Honorable Marc Veasey
U.S. House of Representatives
414 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Veasey:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to ensure the full disclosure of sponsors of political advertisements. Your views are very important, and I appreciate your sharing them with me.

As your letter indicates, the current definition of "editorial control" is the sponsoring organization. The Commission has yet to conduct a proceeding to review the definition. I understand you believe we should conduct such a proceeding, and I respect your suggestion.

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March 10, 2016

The Honorable Juan C. Vargas
U.S. House of Representatives
1605 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Vargas:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to ensure the full disclosure of sponsors of political advertisements. Your views are very important, and I appreciate your sharing them with me.

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March 10, 2016

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
U.S. House of Representatives
1707 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Van Hollen:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to ensure the full disclosure of sponsors of political advertisements. Your views are very important, and I appreciate your sharing them with me.

As your letter indicates, the current definition of "editorial control" is the sponsoring organization. The Commission has yet to conduct a proceeding to review the definition. I understand you believe we should conduct such a proceeding, and I respect your suggestion.

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March 10, 2016

The Honorable Niki Tsongas
U.S. House of Representatives
1714 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Tsongas:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to ensure the full disclosure of sponsors of political advertisements. Your views are very important, and I appreciate your sharing them with me.

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March 10, 2016

The Honorable Norma J. Torres
U.S. House of Representatives
516 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Torres:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to ensure the full disclosure of sponsors of political advertisements. Your views are very important, and I appreciate your sharing them with me.

As your letter indicates, the current definition of "editorial control" is the sponsoring organization. The Commission has yet to conduct a proceeding to review the definition. I understand you believe we should conduct such a proceeding, and I respect your suggestion.

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March 10, 2016

The Honorable Paul Tonko
U.S. House of Representatives
2463 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Tonko:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to ensure the full disclosure of sponsors of political advertisements. Your views are very important, and I appreciate your sharing them with me.

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March 10, 2016

The Honorable Dina Titus
U.S. House of Representatives
401 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Titus:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to ensure the full disclosure of sponsors of political advertisements. Your views are very important, and I appreciate your sharing them with me.

As your letter indicates, the current definition of "editorial control" is the sponsoring organization. The Commission has yet to conduct a proceeding to review the definition. I understand you believe we should conduct such a proceeding, and I respect your suggestion.

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March 10, 2016

The Honorable Mike Thompson
U.S. House of Representatives
231 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Thompson:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to ensure the full disclosure of sponsors of political advertisements. Your views are very important, and I appreciate your sharing them with me.

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March 10, 2016

The Honorable Mark Takano
U.S. House of Representatives
1507 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Takano:

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March 10, 2016

The Honorable Mark Takai
U.S. House of Representatives
422 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Takai:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to ensure the full disclosure of sponsors of political advertisements. Your views are very important, and I appreciate your sharing them with me.

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March 10, 2016

The Honorable Eric Swalwell
U.S. House of Representatives
129 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Swalwell:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to ensure the full disclosure of sponsors of political advertisements. Your views are very important, and I appreciate your sharing them with me.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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March 10, 2016

The Honorable Jackie Speier
U.S. House of Representatives
2465 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Speier:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to ensure the full disclosure of sponsors of political advertisements. Your views are very important, and I appreciate your sharing them with me.

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March 10, 2016

The Honorable Adam Smith
U.S. House of Representatives
2264 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Smith:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to ensure the full disclosure of sponsors of political advertisements. Your views are very important, and I appreciate your sharing them with me.

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March 10, 2016

The Honorable Louise M. Slaughter
U.S. House of Representatives
2469 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Slaughter:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to ensure the full disclosure of sponsors of political advertisements. Your views are very important, and I appreciate your sharing them with me.

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The Honorable Albio Sires
U.S. House of Representatives
2342 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Sires:

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March 10, 2016

The Honorable Brad Sherman
U.S. House of Representatives
2242 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Sherman:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to ensure the full disclosure of sponsors of political advertisements. Your views are very important, and I appreciate your sharing them with me.

As your letter indicates, the current definition of "editorial control" is the sponsoring organization. The Commission has yet to conduct a proceeding to review the definition. I understand you believe we should conduct such a proceeding, and I respect your suggestion.

Since becoming Chairman of the Commission, I have focused on expanding the public's access to information about political advertising. For example, by broadening the universe of entities required to disclose the sponsoring organization of political advertising in the Commission's online public inspection file database. As of July 2014, television broadcasters are required to identify an advertisement's sponsor. Further, on January 28, 2016, the Commission adopted rules to expand the online file requirements to include cable operators, satellite TV providers, broadcast radio licensees, and satellite radio licensees.

These new rules expand the reporting under the current "editorial control" definition and will shine more sunlight on political and issue advertising. I appreciate fully that you believe the Commission should go farther.

Thank you for sharing your views with us. The fact that 170 members of congress is a significant statement, the significance of which is not lost.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler", is written over the typed name.

Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

March 10, 2016

The Honorable Terri A. Sewell
U.S. House of Representatives
1133 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Sewell:

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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

March 10, 2016

The Honorable Robert C. Scott
U.S. House of Representatives
1201 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Scott:

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